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Community E-lert®

DATE: September 21, 2005
TO: Community E-lert Recipients
FROM: Jeffrey Chen, Chief of Police
SUBJECT: Community E-lert #05-038

Community E-lert® is a registered trademark of the City of Medina Police Department. This announcement is provided as a public service to residents of Medina and Hunts Point. It is our intention to distribute these E-lerts following an occurrence or condition that may have public safety or community well-being implications. E-lerts are also available via fax for those residents without access to email.

Medina School Bus Alert

Have you noticed an increased number of yellow school buses in Medina this year? If you have not yet encountered one or more, no doubt you will soon. Not only are there additional buses between 7:15 and 7:45 a.m. and 3:00 and 3:30 p.m., there are a significant number of additional bus stops throughout the city. Please be watchful as you traverse the city, there are students and parents waiting for those big yellow buses!

The reason for the change this year is that all Medina Elementary students are now attending school in Bellevue while their new school is built on NE 8th Street. Please be patient during this transition year and keep in mind, all will return to normal next school year.

The Medina Police Department would like to remind all drivers of the importance of stopping for school buses when the red lights are flashing and the stop sign extended. There will be increased patrols around the city during pick-up and drop-off times and Medina Officers will be watchful for violators.

Please remember, the law is in place to ensure the safety of the children. In addition, be mindful of your vehicle's speed as you drive past...children can be unpredictable and may dart out into traffic without looking. **According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 19 children across the**

nation are killed each year while getting on or off their bus. Please play a part in keeping our children safe.

USEFUL INFORMATION

Flashing Yellow Lights – Bus drivers will activate flashing yellow lights to warn driver's they are preparing to stop to load/unload students.

Flashing Red Lights – Students are loading/unloading. It is illegal and unsafe to pass a school bus at this time.

RCW 46.61.370 – Washington State Law prohibiting motorists from passing school buses while red lights flash. Carries a mandatory fine of \$363.

If you wish to speak or make a comment about this information, please email Chief Chen at jchen@medina-wa.gov or Officer Shannon Gibson at sgibson@medina-wa.gov .